

NWS Form E-5 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE MONTHLY REPORT OF RIVER AND FLOOD CONDITIONS	HYDROLOGIC SERVICE AREA: Pocatello, Idaho
	REPORT FOR: MONTH: May YEAR: 2004
	SIGNATURE: Sherrie Hebert (In Charge of Hydrologic Service Area) DATE June 9, 2004
TO: Hydrologic Operations Division, W/OH2 National Weather Service National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Silver Spring, Maryland 20910	
When no flooding occurs, include miscellaneous river conditions, such as significant rises, record low stages, ice conditions, snow cover, droughts and hydrologic products issued (NWS Instruction 10-924).	

X

An X in this box indicates that no flooding has occurred for the month within this hydrologic service area.

Flooding did not occur in the Pocatello Hydrologic Service Area (HSA), however high precipitation did cause rivers and streams in the Henry's Fork Basin to rise quickly. A "Hydrologic Statement" was released May 28, 2004 regarding the rapid rise.

Healthy storm systems in the northern areas of the Pocatello HSA helped May hold up its reputation for the month receiving the most precipitation in the HSA. Overall, 102.9% of normal precipitation fell, with nearly half of the reporting stations receiving greater than 100% of normal precipitation for the month. This was a great boost for the area, however, the mountain snowpack, which was devastated in March due to record high temperatures, has completely melted in all but only the highest elevation sites and nearly three to four weeks earlier than normal. Also, the southern areas of the HSA primarily received less than normal amounts. Again, Eastern Idaho sees little hope for recovery from the now six-year drought situation.

Other Hydrologic Interests

Precipitation

Overall, May precipitation for the Pocatello HSA was 102.9% of normal for 37 of 41 reporting stations that have climate data, according to Western Region Climate Center data. Nearly half of the Pocatello HSA stations received greater than 100% of normal May precipitation. Island Park received by far the most precip with 5.16 inches, 207.2% of normal. Stanley reported the lowest percentage and the least precipitation over all with only 0.10 inches, 8.5% of normal. Rexburg at BYU, Hamer and Howe each received approximately 50% of normal precipitation.

Although the HSA May precipitation was greater than 100% of normal, Pocatello only received 1.02 inches, 67.5% of normal. This further reduces the 2004 Water Year precipitation 5.7 percentage points to 97.2% of normal from 102.9% in April.

Mountain snowpack has completely melted in all but only the highest elevation sites and has done so three to four weeks earlier than normal. Regarding the following regional sample, snow water equivalent declined 10 percentage points to 10% of normal from 20% in April. Precipitation, which fell as both rain and snow, increased slightly from 83% of normal in April to 88% for May.

Basin	SWE % Avg		Precip % Avg Water Year 2004	
	Apr	May	Apr	May
Big Wood	27	11	77	80
Little Wood	19	5	83	86
Big Lost	11	1	80	83
Little Lost & Birch	11	3	76	84
Henrys Fork & Teton	48	34	84	91
Snake Basin Above Palisades	31	22	77	84
Willow, Blackfoot & Portneuf	1	0	86	90
Oakley	11	0	98	102
Average	20	10	83	88

Source: Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), June 9, 2004.

Reservoirs

The Upper Snake River reservoir system is at 48% of capacity, down 4% from May 14, 2004¹.

Reservoir	% Capacity Apr 30²	% Capacity May 31³	Percent Change	% of Average³	% of Last Year³
American Falls	70	62	-8	70	98
Blackfoot	18	17	-1	21	63
Henry's Lake	81	85	+4	86	97
Island Park	85	101	+16	103	103
Little Wood	98	90	-8	98	92
Mackay	58	29	-29	37	49
Magic	40	24	-16	30	56
Oakley	27	28	+1	46	119
Palisades	51	26	-25	35	45
Ririe	55	57	+2	65	101
Lake Walcott	100 ⁴	97 ⁵	-3	n/a	n/a

Source: (1) US Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), June 9, 2004; (2) NRCS, April 30, 2004; (3) NRCS, May 31, 2004; (4) BOR, May 14, 2004; (5) BOR, June 9, 2004.

Drought

Although many stations reported above-normal precipitation, the Pocatello HSA has developed such a large precip deficit, drought conditions across Eastern Idaho will not be improving this year. Eastern Idaho is ranked entirely in the D3, "Extreme", and D4, "Exceptional" categories of the US Drought Monitor. Soil moisture, storage and the long-term Climate Prediction Center outlooks indicate below-normal precipitation; situations that will likely expand the D4 regions.

Current Emergency Drought Declarations for 2004 cover all but three counties in Eastern Idaho. The first was Clark County declared April 14 and the most recent is Bingham County, declared on May 26.

Summary of Products Issued in June 2004

Product	Number Issued
Flash Flood Watch	0
Flash Flood Warning	0
Flood Watch	0
Flood Warning	0
Urban and/or Small Stream Flood Warning	0
Urban and/or Small Stream Flood Advisory	0
Flood Statement	0
Hydrologic Statement	1
Hydrologic Outlook	0
NOW or Special Weather Statement (with information related to flooding)	0
Local Storm Report related to flooding	0

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